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AMERICAN PREMIERE ISSUE!

Recommended For Mature Readers

CATCLAW®

Bane Kerac

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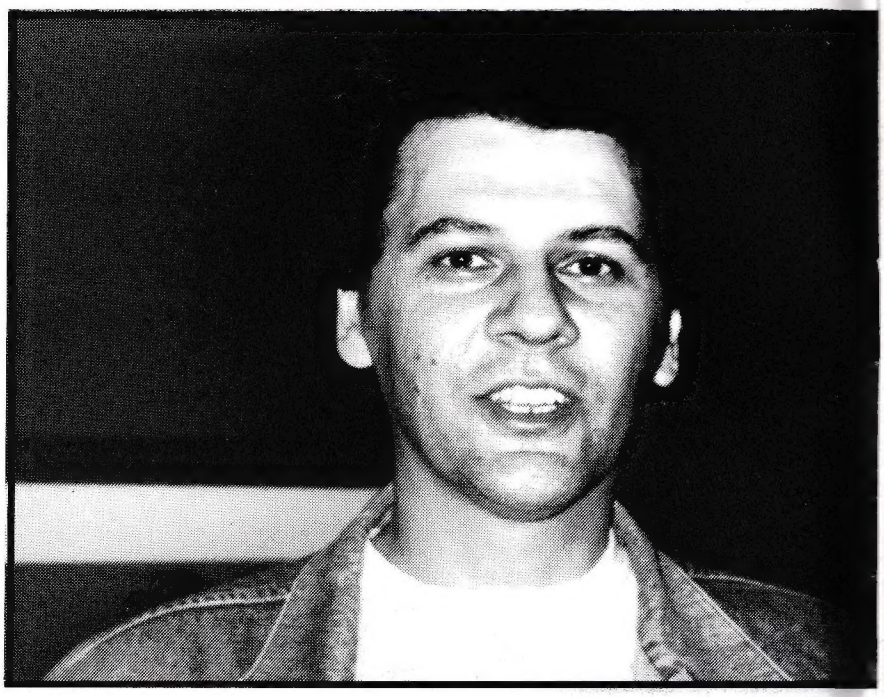
CAT CLAW FEVER



"Life itself is an inspiration. All you need to do is look around you and, with a little effort, you can turn a story about a cop who had his car stolen into a script. The rest is just a result of deforming things to the point of absurdity. The crazier, the better."

Cat Claw creator
Bane Kerac

Welcome to the world of *Cat Claw*. This edition marks the first English-language publication of Bane Kerac's European sensation. *Cat Claw* began in 1981 with an 8-episode installment originally published only in Yugoslavia. (Those initial eight episodes are the first ones you'll be reading in these pages.)

Strip Art Features began syndicating the feature in 1988. Currently *Cat Claw* appears in Norway, Sweden, and in Kerac's native Yugoslavia. The strip's estimated worldwide readership is roughly 500,000. In Sweden's anthology magazine, *Magnum*, *Cat Claw* is the most popular feature—prominently displaying her prowess on the cover of each issue.

Cat Claw has also proved popular in America as well. Originally planned as a three-issue mini-series, the response to the promotional material and press announcements was so overwhelming that we've decided to make *Cat Claw* a regular monthly title—a welcome addition to the Eternity line of comics. Kerac himself will be painting new covers for each issue.
In the meantime, we'll be looking for your letters of comment. Address them to Cat Claw, Malibu Graphics, Inc., 1355 Lawrence Drive #212, Newbury Park, CA 91320.

Tom Mason

Above: Bane Kerac (photograph courtesy of and © Strip Art Features)

NEXT ISSUE: A talk with *Cat Claw* creator Bane Kerac (and three complete *Cat Claw* stories)!

CATCLAW®

The Night Of The Cat

STARTING TODAY!

SORRY!...

CAROL, CAROL... YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LET THIS HAPPEN!

FIRST EPISODE!

HIS

JEANNIE IS A **BLABBERMOUTH**, ALL RIGHT, BUT THEN SHE DOESN'T HAVE **LOADS** OF WORK TO DO BEFORE HER EXAMS!

BY Bane KERAC

A GIRL HURRIEDLY *RUNNING* DOWN 96TH STREET. IT DOESN'T PROMISE MUCH, WE GRANT YOU, BUT DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF STOPPING RIGHT HERE AND NOW... **ACTION** AND **EXCITEMENT** ARE ON THE WAY...

1

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IT'S NOW TIME TO REWARD THE PATIENT AND PERSEVERING AMONG YOU... AFTER A TEDIOUS START... (WE HAD TO START SOMEHOW!) HERE COMES THE REAL STUFF!
THE INSTITUTE IS STILL SWARMING WITH PEOPLE. SOME ARE WORKING BUT OTHERS WASTE TIME IN ENDLESS, STUPID CHIT-CHAT PARTIES...
EVENIN', MISS CONOR! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO WORK TONIGHT TOO?
I'VE GOT TO, UNCLE SPIKEY! GOT EXPERIMENTS TO FINISH BEFORE MY BIG EXAM!
DR. BAKER STILL IN THE LAB?
YEP! PRETTY SOON HE'LL BE MOVIN' HIS STUFF HERE, THE WAY HE'S GOING!
IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME ONE BIT!... THAT GUY IS A MANIC WORKAHOLIC!
VI VII VIII R
BZZZLL!
I MUST SNEAK IN SOMEHOW... MUSTN'T GET HIM ANGRY OR I'LL NEVER PASS THAT TEST!
GOD KNOWS HE HATES TO BE INTERRUPTED WHILE WORKING.
...MY! WHAT'S HE DOING IN THAT LAB? MAKING SOUND-EFFECTS FOR CARTOONS?
DUMDADADA MM MM KRASH RATTLE TWINK CLANGR ZVEC!
A CAT!?
ALL THAT'S MISSING NOW IS JERRY, AND OUR LINE-UP WOULD BE COMPLETE!
2

ONE OF PROFESSOR BAKER'S LAB CATS...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SWEETY? YOU DIDN'T ENJOY THE PROFESSOR'S EXPERIMENTS?
CAREFUL NOW, CAROL! YOU DON'T REALISE THAT WHAT STANDS BEFORE YOU IS NO ORDINARY FELIS DOMESTICA!
PUSS, PUSS, KITTY...
FFRRT! PFFF!
IT'S A REAL WILD BEAST!
PFFFRT
MEIAOW
?!
EEEEEiii!
3

LUCKILY THE WILD CAT NOW DISCARDED ITS AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS FOR THE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE TASK OF TRYING TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THE BUILDING...
?!
WHAT WAS THAT? A CAT? OR A TIGER? I WOULD'VE HAD MY EYES SCRATCHED IF I HADN'T...
Oooo
AS IT IS, MY LOSSES GO NO FURTHER THAN THIS NEW BLOUSE!
oOO
GODDAM BEAST! I'LL...
?
MISS CONOR? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE A CAT THAT JUST...
NOT ONLY DID I SEE HER, BUT WE EVEN SHOOK HANDS!
AND LET ME TELL YOU, YOUR PET IS IN DIRE NEED OF THE GOOD OL' CLIPPERS!
WHAT?! IT SCRATCHED YOU? LET ME SEE!
COME ON IN! WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN UP AND BANDAGE THAT CUT!
OH, IT'S NOTHING PROFESSOR... SUPERFICIAL!
NEVER MIND THAT! A CAT IS A CAT IS A CAT! I'LL GIVE YOU A SERUM, TOO!
IF IT'S NO SECRET, WHAT IS IT YOU FEED YOUR PETS? THIS ONE BEHAVED MORE LIKE ITS COUSIN... THE PANTHER!
AND I'LL BET PURRING BY THE FIREPLACE ISN'T HER FAVORITE HOBBY EITHER!
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED MYSELF! I WAS USING BETATRON ON CATS FOR SOMETIME, AND THEY ALL BEHAVED NORMALLY LATER!
BUT THIS ONE MADE A REAL MESS OF MY LAB AS SOON AS I LET HER OUT OF THE GLASS TANK!
4

I CAN UNDERSTAND MYSELF FOR HANGING AROUND THIS DARK AND GLOOMY BUILDING, BUT WHY ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME HERE, MISS CONOR?
I'VE COME TO DO SOME TESTS. I'M HAVING AN EXAM IN A COUPLE OF DAYS!
YES? AND MAY I KNOW THE SUBJECT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHY, YOURS PROFESSOR!
REALLY? CHILD, I'D ADVISE YOU TO NEVER BECOME A PROFESSOR OR GET INVOLVED IN ANY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH! I'M AS GOOD A WARNING AS YOU COULD GET!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!?
BY THE TIME YOU HIT THIRTY-FIVE YOU'LL BE AS RUSTY AS I AM! IN TEN YEARS TIME I WON'T REMEMBER MY OWN NAME!
I DON'T THINK SO! YOU'VE JUST OVERWORKED YOURSELF, THAT'S ALL! A LITTLE REST AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
MAYBE! WELL, SINCE THE SUBJECT OF MY EXPERIMENT HAS DISAPPEARED, I THINK I'LL CALL IT A DAY. DON'T STAY TOO LONG NOW, EH?
I WON'T. I'M JUST GOING OVER WHAT I'VE ALREADY STUDIED.
HMM... BAKER IS NIFTY... BOTH AS A PROFESSOR AND A GUY...
OH, OH... HE DIDN'T SWITCH OFF HIS APPARATUS!
FORTUNATELY I KNOW ENOUGH TO CORRECT HIS FORGETFUL MISTAKES!
KNOWLEDGE IS A RELATIVE CONCEPT, CAROL CONOR!
AAARRH!!
ZBZAK!!
5

SHE WRITHED AND SQUIRMED IN PAIN ON THE LAB FLOOR, SURROUNDED BY A WEB OF THUNDERBOLTS.
...WHICH MADE THEIR UNSTOPPABLE WAY INTO HER BODY...
UNTIL, FINALLY, THE HUMMING NOISE OF THE GENERATOR SLOWLY DIED DOWN. THE WIND PLAYED WITH THE CURTAINS...
LETTING IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON.
TO EMBRACE HER MOTIONLESS BODY.
BY COINCIDENCE OR BY SOME OTHER TRICK OF NATURE.
ONE LONELY HUNTER OF THE NIGHT MADE ITS PRESENCE KNOWN... AS IF CONTENT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ANOTHER OF HIS KIND WAS BORN.
DAMM! WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED!!?
WHATEVER IT WAS, IT SURE HAD ME SHAKING! STILL...
IT SEEMS EVERY PART OF MY BODY IS ACCOUNTED FOR... ALTHOUGH I FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST GULPED DOWN A BOTTLE OF WHISKEY.
SHE FELT AS IF SHE WAS MADE OF RUBBER BELOW THE WAIST. HER HANDS FUMBLED FOR SUPPORT AS HER UNSTEADY LEGS BROUGHT HER BEFORE THE METALLIC WINDOW OF THE VACUUM CHAMBER.
AAAAH?!
WHICH IS JUST A SIMPLE WAY OF SAYING A MIRROR!
6

MEANWHILE, THIS HUGE LOSS OF ENERGY COULD NOT GO UNDETECTED.

LAB TWO!? BUT BAKER LEFT A MINUTE AGO!

SECURITY DPT. GENERAL

SD

BZZZZ!

I'D BETTER CHECK THIS MYSELF.

THAT ABSENT MINDED PROFESSOR MUST'VE LEFT A BAD CONNECTION SOMEWHERE AGAIN. *HEY!* BUT...

THAT GIRL! SHE'S STILL UP THERE, MAYBE IT'S HER?

?

MISS CONOR!?

IT'S ALL RIGHT. SHE'S BREATHING! MUST'VE FALLEN **UNCONSCIOUS** OR SOMETHING!

...MMH...

MISS CONOR!?! WAKE UP! COME ON, CHILD... OPEN YOUR EYES!!!

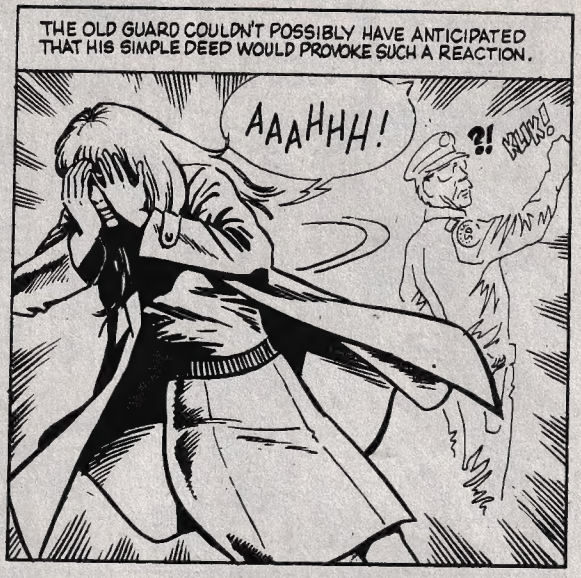
AW, MY HEAD! I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN PARTYING ALL NIGHT. WHAT HAPPENED, UNCLE SPIKEY?

I'D LIKE TO KNOW MYSELF. I JUST **FOUND** YOU HERE ON THE FLOOR AND THE **GENERATOR** IS DEAD!

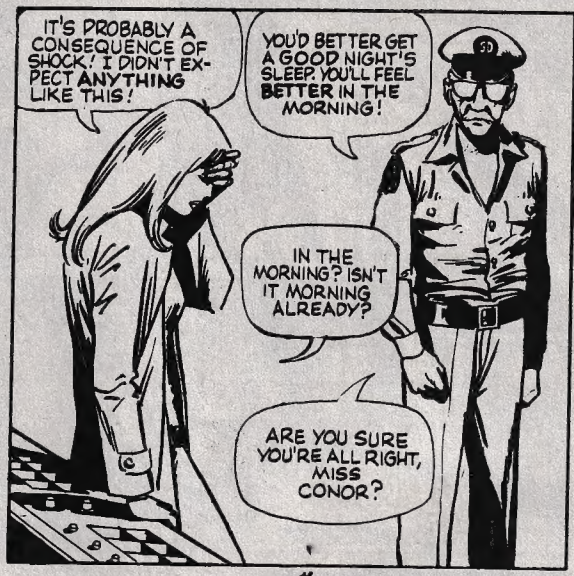
OH, I REMEMBER NOW! A **SHORT CIRCUIT!** HOW **STUPID** OF ME!

I TRIED TO TURN OFF THE **PROFESSORS** DEVICES.

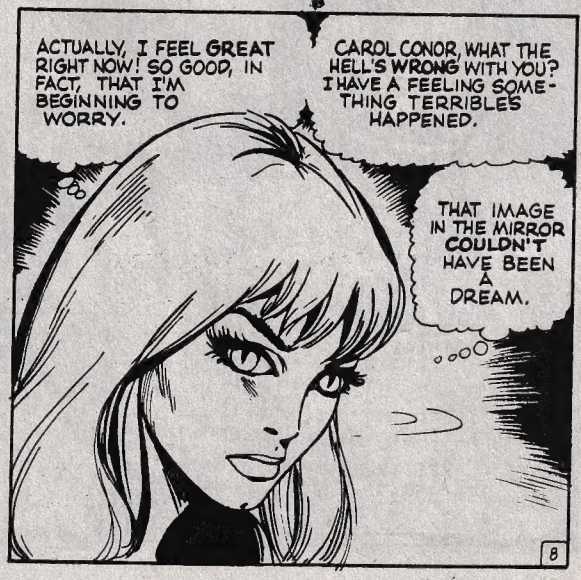
WELL, GOOD THING NOTHING REALLY HAPPENED TO YOU, YOU SHOULDN'T MESS WITH BAKER'S TOYS!
HMM... I'D BETTER SWITCH ON THE RESERVE GENERATOR UNTIL THE BOYS FROM MAINTENANCE GET HERE.
HOW WEIRD! COULD IT ALL HAVE BEEN A DREAM?
SD

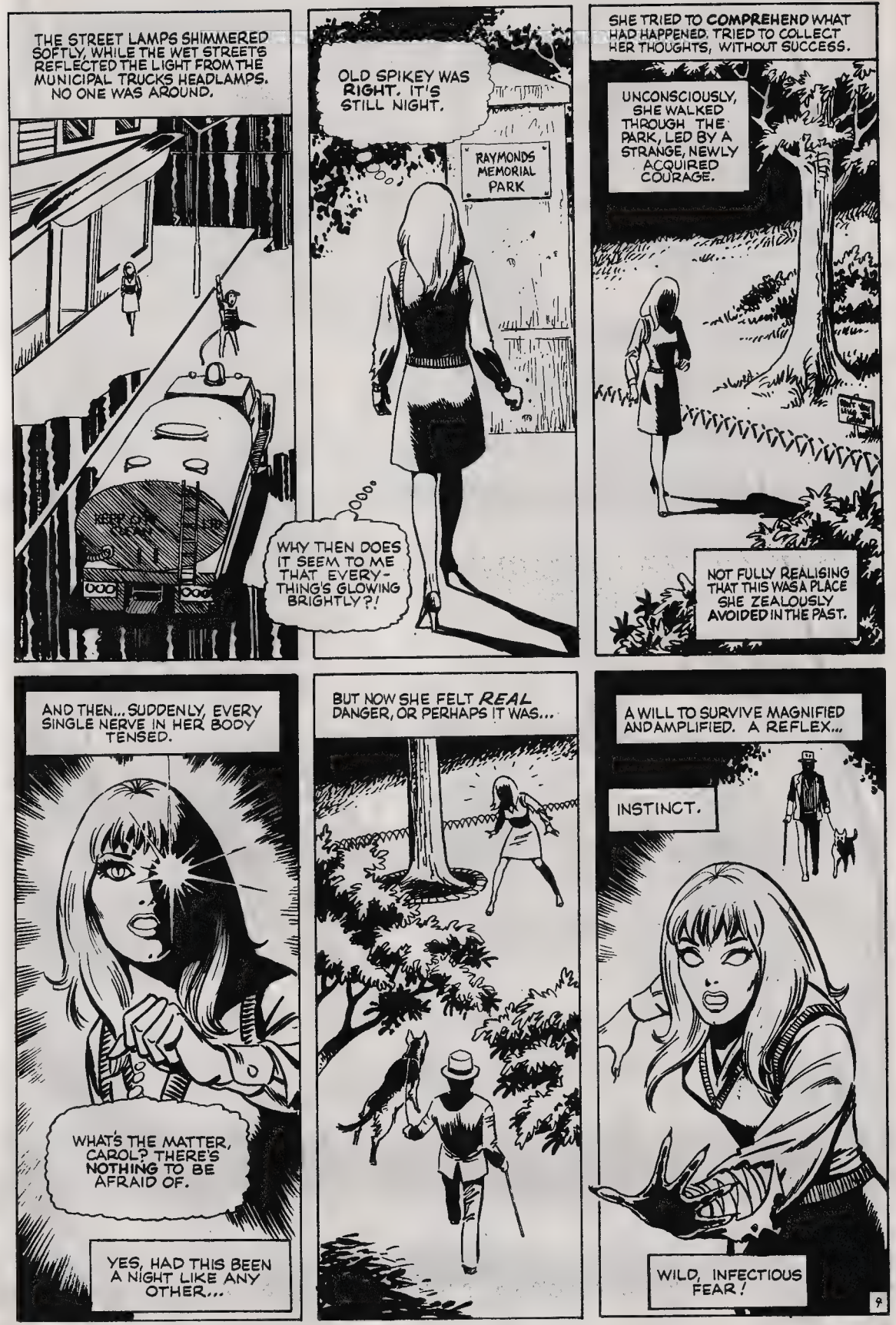

THE OLD GUARD COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE ANTICIPATED THAT HIS SIMPLE DEED WOULD PROVOKE SUCH A REACTION.
AAAHHH!
?!
KLUNK!

MISS CONOR!? WHAT IS IT NOW? WANT ME TO CALL A DOCTOR?
MY EYES!
IT'S LIKE A THOUSAND ARROWS JUST WENT THROUGH MY BRAIN! WHAT DID YOU DO?
WHO? ME? NOTHING, CHILD! JUST TURNED ON THE LIGHTS!
IS THAT ALL? ME I THOUGHT THE WHOLE ROOM HAD GONE UP IN THE AIR!


IT'S PROBABLY A CONSEQUENCE OF SHOCK! I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
YOU'D BETTER GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IN THE MORNING!
IN THE MORNING? ISN'T IT MORNING ALREADY?
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, MISS CONOR?
SD

IT'S ONLY MIDNIGHT. I'M GOING ON WITH MY ROUNDS, AN' YOU'D BETTER GO HOME! IF YOU FEEL WORSE, CALL A DOCTOR!
THERE'S NO NEED...
I'M MUCH BETTER! BYE, AND THANKS!


ACTUALLY, I FEEL GREAT RIGHT NOW! SO GOOD, IN FACT, THAT I'M BEGINNING TO WORRY.
CAROL CONOR, WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU? I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S HAPPENED.
THAT IMAGE IN THE MIRROR COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A DREAM.


THE STREET LAMPS SHIMMERED SOFTLY, WHILE THE WET STREETS REFLECTED THE LIGHT FROM THE MUNICIPAL TRUCKS HEADLAMPS. NO ONE WAS AROUND.
KEEP OFF GRASS
OLD SPIKEY WAS RIGHT. IT'S STILL NIGHT.
RAYMONDS MEMORIAL PARK
WHY THEN DOES IT SEEM TO ME THAT EVERY-THING'S GLOWING BRIGHTLY?!
SHE TRIED TO COMPREHEND WHAT HAD HAPPENED. TRIED TO COLLECT HER THOUGHTS, WITHOUT SUCCESS.
UNCONSCIOUSLY, SHE WALKED THROUGH THE PARK, LED BY A STRANGE, NEWLY ACQUIRED COURAGE.
NOT FULLY REALISING THAT THIS WAS A PLACE SHE ZEALOUSLY AVOIDED IN THE PAST.
AND THEN... SUDDENLY, EVERY SINGLE NERVE IN HER BODY TENSED.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, CAROL? THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
YES, HAD THIS BEEN A NIGHT LIKE ANY OTHER...
BUT NOW SHE FELT REAL DANGER, OR PERHAPS IT WAS...
A WILL TO SURVIVE MAGNIFIED AND AMPLIFIED. A REFLEX...
INSTINCT.
WILD, INFECTIOUS FEAR!
9

THE EYES SAY ONE THING, BUT THE NOSE SEEMED TO DISAGREE...
?
THE DOG STANDS HESITANT FOR A SECOND...
AND THEN, HIS PRIMAL INSTINCTS PREVAIL OVER THE DECEPTIVE REALITY...
ARF VARF AVV
EASY, REX! WHY ARE YOU BARKING?
MUST BE A CAT!
A CAT EXACTLY, NOT LIKE ANY OTHER, TRUE, BUT A CAT NEVER-THE LESS!
THIS "POOR CAT" WEIGHED OVER 50KG. AND WAS STRONGER THAN MOST OF ITS ILK.
CALM DOWN, REX. LEAVE THE POOR CAT ALONE!
ARF ARF
KERRY
AND IT DIDN'T ANSWER TO PUSSY OR KITTY, BUT TO THE NAME OF CAROL CONOR!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I ALWAYS DID FEAR DOGS, AND OF COURSE IT'S NORMAL TO RUN.
BUT TO CLAW UP A TREE!?!
LUCKILY, THAT MAN FINALLY MANAGED TO CALM HIS BEAST! I CAN COME DOWN NOW.
CAROL WOULD'VE PROBABLY THOUGHT HARD AND LONG BEFORE ATTEMPTING THIS DESCENT BACK TO MOTHER EARTH.
BUT THIS NEW CHARACTER IN HER, THE ONE SHE WAS NOT YET FULLY AWARE OF...
OBVIOUSLY DECIDED TO CUT SHORT THIS TRIVIAL JOURNEY.
WH...
WHAT ?
AND BEFORE CAROL KNEW WHERE SHE WAS, HER HANDS AND FEET TOUCHED THE GROUND.
THUP!
SOFTER THAN THE CARESS OF THE SUMMER BREEZE.

THIS GETS BETTER ALL THE TIME! I CAN SEE CLEARLY IN THE DARK. CLIMB A TREE... JUMP ANYWHERE AND ANYWAY I LIKE.
I SEEM TO RESEMBLE A CAT MORE THAN... A CAT!!?
BUT OF COURSE! THIS HAS GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CAT THAT SCRATCHED ME TODAY.
AND THEN THAT SHORT CIRCUIT... GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT I WAS EXPOSED TO!
I MUST CONSULT BAKER. HE'S BOUND TO KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.
MY STRENGTH SEEMS TO BE MULTIPLIED PROPORTIONALLY,
THAT MEANS I COULD PROBABLY...
AND BEFORE SHE EVEN FINISHED THAT THOUGHT.
PFFFFT!
12

FIVE METERS AT LEAST!
AND I DID IT IN THREE LEAPS!
I USED TO BE AFRAID TO EVEN CLIMB ON A CHAIR.
...AND NOW HERE I AM STANDING ON THE EDGE OF THE ROOF, AND WITH MY EYES WIDE OPEN!
I'M AFRAID BAKER'S NOT GOING TO HAVE AN EASY TIME EXPLAINING THIS.
MR. HANDSOME PROFESSOR PROBABLY HASN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA ABOUT THIS.
AND WHILE CAROL CONOR ENJOYS THE VIEW FROM THE CITY ROOFS.
WE WILL GO OVER TO "DISCO 55" NOT FOR THE DEAFENING NOISE BUT TO MEET JEANNIE JONES, CAROL'S ROOM-MATE.
WHAT'RE YOU PLAYING AT, JEANNIE? YOU LEAVIN' NOW? I MEAN, THE REAL PARTY IS JUST STARTING TO ROLL! YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE WHO HAS TO BE TUCKED IN BY YOUR MUMMY!
BUT I AM THE TYPE WHO ISN'T TOO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE COMPANY OF WILDLY INTERESTING GUYS LIKE YOURSELF!
DISCO
NEBRAC

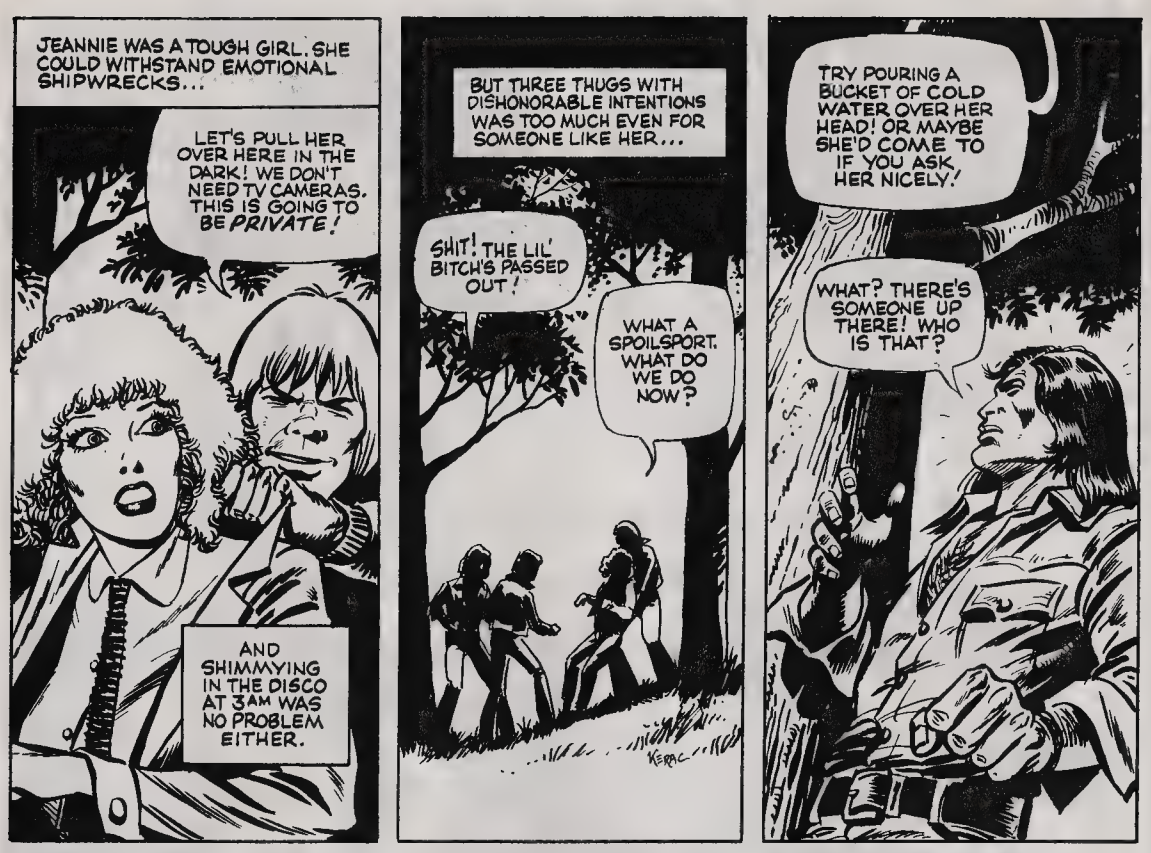
O'BRADY WOULD RATHER HAVE HAD A GANG OF THUGS BEAT HIM UP THAN BE TOLD BY A GIRL THAT HE WAS BORING...
YOU THINK YOU CAN PLAY WITH ME LIKE THIS?
YOU THINK I HUNG AROUND YOU ALL NIGHT FOR NOTHIN'?
I DON'T GIVE A SHIT. GO FIND YOURSELF SOME CHEAP SLUT TO PLAY WITH!
JEEZ, WHAT A JERK! ALL HE TALKED ABOUT WAS BIKES, BIKES, BIKES!
55
DISCO
DISCO
DISCO
TAXI!
AS YOU KNOW, A JOURNEY BY TAXI IS A VERY TEDIOUS EVENT SO WE WILL ELEGANTLY JUST SKIP IT.
GODDAMNED ARCHITECTS! WHY'D THEY HAVE TO CONSTRUCT THE CAMPUS IN THE MIDDLE OF SHERWOOD FOREST.
VROOOM
I GET THE CREEPS WALKING THROUGH THAT PARK.
KSRAC
THE PARK WAS WELL LIT, TRUE, BUT THE SHRUBS AND BUSHES DID A GOOD JOB OF HIDING THIS FACT.
SO BY THE TIME JEANNIE NOTICED O'BRADY AND HIS PALS, SHE HAD ALREADY NEARLY RUN INTO THEM!
YOU!?
SURE! DID YOU THINK YOUR CAB WAS FASTER THAN OUR BIKES?
BIG DEAL! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVE?
I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED! SOMEONE'S GOT TO SHOW YOU.
NAMELY YOU DON'T GIVE OL' O'BRADY HERE THE SLIP JUST LIKE THAT!
?
I USUALLY ASK FIRST, BUT SOMETIMES I DON'T MIND USING FORCE TO GET WHAT I WANT!
14

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER OR I'LL SCREAM!
YEAH? GREAT! I LOVE IT WHEN CHICKS SCREAM.

SCREAM YOUR HEAD OFF, BUT NO ONE'S GONNA COME TO HAVE A LOOK!
AND THE OLD GUARD IS RETIRING IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS. HE'LL WANT NO TROUBLE NOW!

LUCKILY, SOME ARE ON DUTY LONGER THAN OTHERS...
IT'S THE BOOZE BROTHERS AGAIN! HIGH AND LOUD!
PROBABLY NOT! DRUNK FOOLS DON'T USUALLY SCREAM FOR HELP, DO THEY!?!

AND ALTHOUGH IT IS PRETTY FAR OFF I'D SAY THAT'S JEANNIE'S SOPRANO AT WORK.
BUT I THOUGHT MY ROOM-MATE WAS HAVING A WILD BALL AT THE LOCAL DISCO?
WELL, LOOKS LIKE SHE'S NOT! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, CAROL?... A HEAVENLY SIGN?


JEANNIE WAS A TOUGH GIRL. SHE COULD WITHSTAND EMOTIONAL SHIPWRECKS...
LET'S PULL HER OVER HERE IN THE DARK! WE DON'T NEED TV CAMERAS. THIS IS GOING TO BE PRIVATE!
AND SHIMMYING IN THE DISCO AT 3AM WAS NO PROBLEM EITHER.
BUT THREE THUGS WITH DISHONORABLE INTENTIONS WAS TOO MUCH EVEN FOR SOMEONE LIKE HER...
SHIT! THE LIL' BITCH'S PASSED OUT!
WHAT A SPOILSPORT. WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
KERRIC
TRY POURING A BUCKET OF COLD WATER OVER HER HEAD! OR MAYBE SHE'D COME TO IF YOU ASK HER NICELY!
WHAT? THERE'S SOMEONE UP THERE! WHO IS THAT?

COME CLOSER AND I'LL TELL YOU!
REAL CLOSE...!!!
SBAM!
?
BUT...
AUGHJAH!?
KERRIC

GREAT WORK, CAROL! AND NOW WHAT ?
HOLD HER, MONKEY! WHEREEVER SHE CAME FROM, SHE IS STILL ALONE!
THINK FAST, SMART ASS! WHAT DO I DO NOW ?
CAREFUL, O'BRADY! THE GIRL'S WELLVERSED IN KARATE!
KARATE? GOOD IDEA, ONLY THING IS I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT.
I'M GONNA HAVE TO MAKE DO SOMEHOW.

SOME AMATEUR IMPROVISATION, PERHAPS!
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO... WHAT?!
PHEW!

UNLIKE YOU, I HATE TO HIT WEAKLINGS OR THOSE INFERIOR IN STRENGTH TO ME, BUT WHEN I'M FORCED INTO IT...
I HAVE A FEELING MY STYLE SUCKS, SO I GUESS I'D BETTER SHUT UP AND GET ON WITH IT!
GOT TO TRY AND KEEP MY HEAD INTACT!
WAIT TILL I....
AUUH!
THUD

YOU CLUMSY ASSHOLE. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW.
SLAP!!
DAMM! MY HAND JUST FLEW ALL BY ITSELF!
I HAVE REALLY HAD ENOUGH NOW...
NOT EVEN MY OWN FATHER HIT ME WITHOUT GETTING AWAY UNPUNISHED!
AND CERTAINLY NO GIRL IS GONNA GET AWAY WITH IT!
LET'S ATTACK HER AT THE SAME TIME!!!
!
WE'LL HAVE HER SCALP NOW!
AND THEN WE'LL...
WHAAA...
ARGH-
DBOOM
JERKS!
DID YOU THINK I WAS JUST GONNA STAND THERE?
EAGERLY AWAITING YOUR EMBRACE!?!

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I HAVEN'T EVEN WARMED UP YET!
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT! THAT CHICK IS A REAL HURRICANE.
A DEMON, MAN! DID YOU SEE THOSE EYES?
AND WHAT ABOUT THAT FIST!?! TALK ABOUT A SLEDGE-HAMMER!
...BAH... AND WE'RE THE GENTLER SEX?!!
AOW, MY HEAD IS KILLING ME!

LET'S SEE WHAT'S WITH MISS ROOM-MATE ...LOOKS LIKE SHE'S SUFFERED FROM AN OVERDOSE OF FEAR.
DUMB CURLY LOCKS! SHE HAD IT COMING SOONER OR LATER! AND NOW I HAVE TO TAKE HER HOME...
MY LEGS CAN HARDLY HOLD ME UP.

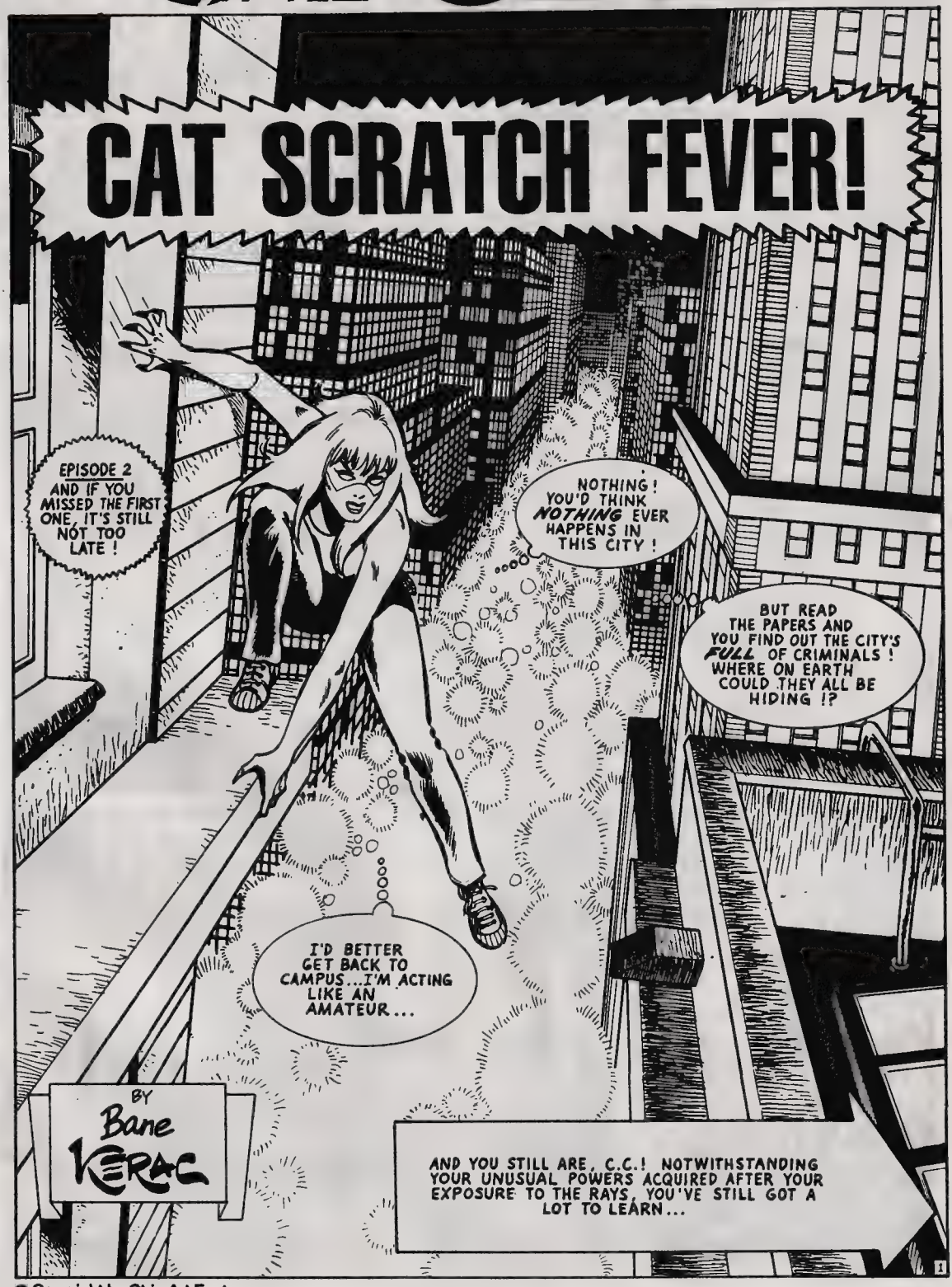
BUT WAIT A SEC...
JEANNIE CAN OBVIOUSLY GO BY HERSELF NOW. AND IT'S BETTER FOR WHAT I HAVE IN MIND THAT SHE DOESN'T SEE MY FACE!
MY NEWLY ACQUIRED TRAITS MIGHT PROVE USEFUL FOR MORE THAN WINNING THE WORLD TREE-CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP!

GUYS LIKE THESE TONIGHT ARE EVERYWHERE. THE CITY'S FULL OF THEM.
AND SOMETHING'S GOT TO BE DONE ABOUT IT!!
KERAL

I DON'T AS YET KNOW WHAT OR HOW, BUT IT'LL COME TO ME!
THERE'S A BEDTIME THOUGHT FOR ME.
AND NOW, LET'S GET BETWEEN THOSE SHEETS BEFORE JEANNIE GETS HERE!

THERE'S NO ONE AROUND! AS IF IT WERE JUST A DREAM.
BUT I KNOW BETTER! O'BRADY AND HIS JERKS WERE VERY REAL! BUT WHY DID THEY DISAPPEAR ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I'M AFRAID THAT QUESTION WILL REMAIN UNANSWERED! WAIT TIL' I TELL CAROL.
FAT CHANCE! MISS PERFECT IS SOUND ASLEEP.
I NEARLY LOSE MY HEAD AND ALL SHE DOES IS SLEEP LIKE A LAMB. SOME JUSTICE!!
GREAT! HAD SHE SUSPECTED ANYTHING SHE WOULD'VE AWAKENED ME TWICE ALREADY!
I CAN REFLECT IN PEACE NOW! SOMETHING'S GOT TO BE DONE ABOUT THIS!
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG CAROL...
OH, NO!
NOT AGAIN!
AOURGH!
IN THE LIGHT OF THE YELLOW MOON A MENACING FIGURE APPEARS.
AND WITH IT COMES THE PROMISE OF A NEW ADVENTURE. MORE CHILLS AND TRILLS FOR OUR GAL... ONE PAGE AWAY IS A BRAND NEW EPISODE...

CAT CLAW®


CAT SCRATCH FEVER!
EPISODE 2 AND IF YOU MISSED THE FIRST ONE, IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE !
NOTHING ! YOU'D THINK NOTHING EVER HAPPENS IN THIS CITY !
BUT READ THE PAPERS AND YOU FIND OUT THE CITY'S FULL OF CRIMINALS ! WHERE ON EARTH COULD THEY ALL BE HIDING !?
I'D BETTER GET BACK TO CAMPUS...I'M ACTING LIKE AN AMATEUR...
BY Bane KERAC
AND YOU STILL ARE, C.C.! NOTWITHSTANDING YOUR UNUSUAL POWERS ACQUIRED AFTER YOUR EXPOSURE TO THE RAYS, YOU'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN...
1

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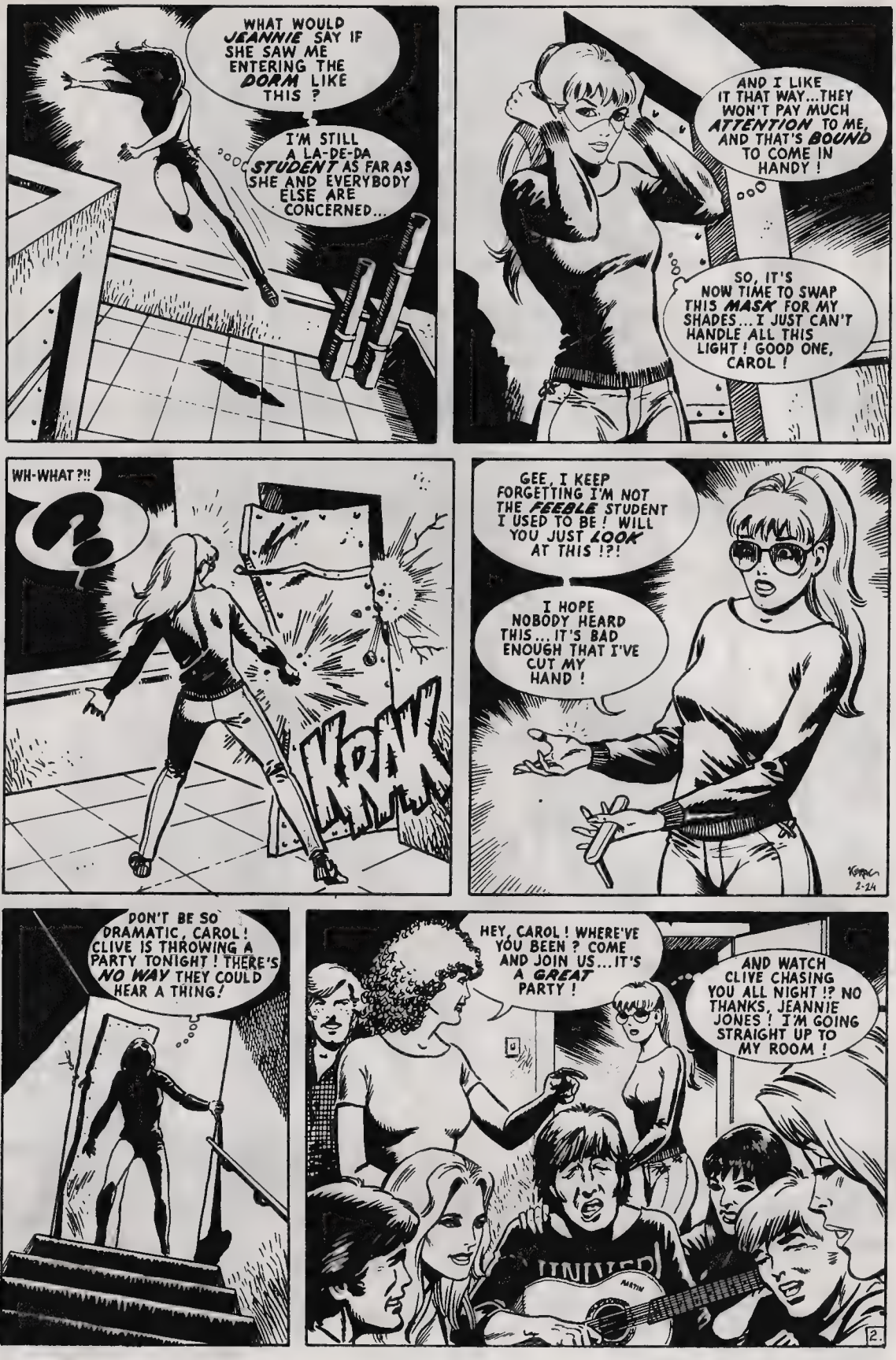
WHAT WOULD JEANNIE SAY IF SHE SAW ME ENTERING THE DORM LIKE THIS ?
I'M STILL A LA-DE-DA STUDENT AS FAR AS SHE AND EVERYBODY ELSE ARE CONCERNED...
AND I LIKE IT THAT WAY...THEY WON'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO ME, AND THAT'S BOUND TO COME IN HANDY !
SO, IT'S NOW TIME TO SWAP THIS MASK FOR MY SHADES...I JUST CAN'T HANDLE ALL THIS LIGHT ! GOOD ONE, CAROL !
WH-WHAT ?!!
KRAK
GEE, I KEEP FORGETTING I'M NOT THE FEEBLE STUDENT I USED TO BE ! WILL YOU JUST LOOK AT THIS !?!
I HOPE NOBODY HEARD THIS... IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT I'VE CUT MY HAND !
2-24
DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC, CAROL ! CLIVE IS THROWING A PARTY TONIGHT ! THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD HEAR A THING!
HEY, CAROL ! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ? COME AND JOIN US...IT'S A GREAT PARTY !
AND WATCH CLIVE CHASING YOU ALL NIGHT !? NO THANKS, JEANNIE JONES ! I'M GOING STRAIGHT UP TO MY ROOM !
2.

WELL, ACTUALLY, JEANNIE... YOU SEE, I WAS JUST GOING TO...
STUDY? COME ON, DARLING! CAN'T YOU THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE!? EVERYBODY'S HAVING A GREAT TIME HERE!
I'M SORRY, JEANNIE, BUT I REALLY CAN'T... I'M GOING TO BED WITH A BOOK!
OUT OF THE QUESTION! ANYWAY, HERE'S CLIVE ...MAYBE HE'LL CONVINCE YOU!
WELL, I CAN TRY! BUT, REALLY, IF EVEN "EAGLE-EYES" IS HERE, THEN THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO REASON FOR YOU NOT TO COME!
?!
HEY, "EAGLE-EYES", LOOK WHO'S JUST POPPED IN! COME AND SAY HELLO TO CAROL!
OH, NO, NOT HIM! WHEN HE SETS EYES ON CAROL HE'S EVEN MORE CLUMSY THAN USUAL! A REAL WET BLANKET!
I... HM... EVENIN', MISS CONOR.
OOHOPSA
HEY, DICKHEAD! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
?! GRRR!
HAHAHA HOHOH HEHEHA
OH, I'M REALLY SORRY... I HONESTLY DIDN'T MEAN TO... OH, BUT YOU'VE HURT YOURSELF!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, STEVEN, IT'S NOTHING!
NOW, AT LEAST, I WON'T HAVE TO COME UP WITH A STORY TO EXPLAIN THIS CUT!
3

SHE ACTUALLY REMEMBERED MY NAME! OH, BOY! SHE'S SO NICE! SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T TEASE ME BECAUSE I'M BLIND AS A BAT!
HEY, YOU TWO LOVE BIRDS! IS THE FIRST AID LESSON OVER?
YEAH! AND LET ME TELL YOU THAT I SEE NOTHING FUNNY IN STEVEN TRIPPING UP AND FALLING!
COME ON, CAROL... IT'S JUST A JOKE... WE ALL KNOW HE'S A GENIUS... ISN'T THAT RIGHT, "EAGLE EYES"?
WELL, IF YOU SAY SO, MISS JONES...
2-26
THERE! SEE? AND NOW LET'S GET A DRINK AND YOU'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER! OKAY?
NO WAY! I CAN'T PARTY NOW! NOT BEFORE THE EXAM!
EXAMS, EXAMS! CAROL CONOR, YOU REALLY GET ON MY NERVES WITH YOUR EXAMS! YOU'RE BAKER'S PET STUDENT ...I MEAN, HIS MOUTH WATERS WHEN YOU'RE AROUND!
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT? I WANT TO LEARN SOMETHING HERE! I DON'T WANT TO CRUISE THROUGH COLLEGE LIKE OTHERS I COULD NAME!
MAMA MIA! ANOTHER LECTURE! THAT'S IT, CAROL! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR SERMONS!
AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF TRYING TO BEAT SOME SENSE INTO THAT HEAD OF YOURS! I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO!
COW!
AN HOUR LATER AND CAROL IS STILL UNABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON HER STUDYING...
DAMN! SHE REALLY PISSED ME OFF THIS TIME!
I WON'T GET ANY WORK DONE TONIGHT! BOY, AM I GOING TO BLOW IT TOMORROW!
4.

I'M LATE!... LATE AS USUAL!
CAROL CONOR, WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO YOU!?!
SECTOR 3
?
!
!?!
YOU CLUMSY SHMUCK!
WHY DON'T YOU WATCH WHERE YOU'RE...
EH... YES, ME... MISS CONOR... I KNOW THIS IS...
OH! STEVEN... IT'S YOU!
FIVE PAST EIGHT! BAKER'S GOING TO SKIN ME ALIVE FOR THIS!
OH, I HOPE I HAVEN'T... I MEAN... I... WELL...
OUCH, SHE'S MAD AT ME NOW! AND I DARE NOT CRY. I'M SO CLUMSY, I'LL PROBABLY TRIP OVER MY OWN TEARS!
THE CORRIDOR'S EMPTY! EVERYBODY'S ALREADY IN! DAMN, WHY DOES STEVEN ALWAYS...
2-27
SUDDENLY, CAROL'S PUPILS DILATE INTO TWO RAZOR-SHARP SLITS... AND THROUGH HER CLENCHED TEETH CAME A SOUND NOT TOO COMMON FROM A HUMAN'S THROAT...
KHHHH!!
3

NOW WHAT ?!?

THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE !

COULD IT POSSIBLY BE "STAGE FRIGHT" ?

I DIDN'T STUDY LAST NIGHT, TRUE, BUT I'M PRETTY *CONFIDENT* I KNOW ENOUGH TO GO ON...

DON'T GO IN ! DON'T GO IN !

NONSENSE ! IT'S ONLY AN EXAM ! WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN !?

AH, *THERE* YOU ARE AT LAST, MISS CONOR ! WELL, NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE, I GUESS WE CAN START...

I TRUST YOU'VE ALL STUDIED WELL !

SOME HAVE, SOME HAVE NOT... DON'T JUMP TO *HASTY CONCLUSIONS*, PROFESSOR !

DAMN ! WHAT'LL I DO NOW ? I CAN'T WRITE ! I CAN'T LET THE OTHERS SEE MY HANDS !

?

AND IF I DON'T DO *ANYTHING*, THEN I'VE HAD IT ! THINK, CAROL, THINK !

HM... YOUR PAPER'S STILL BLANK, MISS CONOR... SOMETHING WRONG ?

JUDGING BY YOUR PERFORMANCE IN CLASS, THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE A *JOKE* FOR YOU !

WHAT ? OH, I... EVERYTHING'S FINE, PROFESSOR ! I JUST NEED SOME *TIME* TO CONCENTRATE !

A JOKE !!? HM, SOME JOKE ! HOW COULD I *POSSIBLY* EXPLAIN THAT I CAN'T WRITE BECAUSE...

...TRY AS I MIGHT, I CAN'T RETRACT MY CLAWS...
AND THEN THIS FEELING I'M IN DANGER ! IT JUST WON'T GO AWAY !
I WISH I COULD JUMP OUT THE WINDOW !
BUT I'VE GOT TO RESTRAIN MYSELF...THIS HAS GOT TO STOP !
AND FINALLY, HALF AN HOUR LATER...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING ! ALL OF A SUDDEN, EVERYTHING'S NORMAL, ALTHOUGH IT'S TOO LATE NOW, FOR I HAVE OBVIOUSLY...
KERRIGAN
FAILED !
WHAT ? YOU ?! IMPOSSIBLE ! IF YOU'RE NOT KIDDIN', WE SHOULD GO OUT AND CELEBRATE !
TRES
FAREWELL COMIC CRONO
THE PHASING
BITTER-MAN
2-29
RIDICULOUS ! WHAT'S THERE TO CELEBRATE !? I FEEL LIKE SCREAMING MY HEAD OFF!
COME ON ! THERE'S GOT TO BE A FIRST TIME ! CAROL CONOR FLUNKS AN EXAM !? FANTASTIC !
STOP TALKING RUBBISH, J.J.! I'M IN NO MOOD FOR THIS !
DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD...
CLIVE AND I ARE GOING OUT...JOIN US ! YOU CAN FORGET YOUR WORRIES !
THANKS, JEANNIE, BUT I'M IN NO MOOD FOR COMPANY !
YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT, ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SAY I APPROVE !
WELL, HAVE IT YOUR WAY ! I'M GOING OUT, AND YOU CAN SIT HERE AND CRY !
IS SHE DOING IT ON PURPOSE ? SHE KNOWS I'M IN LOVE WITH CLIVE !
UNFORTUNATELY OUR CHAMPION SEEMS TO PREFER COQUETTES LIKE JEANNIE !
7.

STOP THIS AT ONCE, CAROL...BETTER CLEAN UP THIS PIG STY !
THIS LOOKS LIKE A FLEA MARKET AND NOT A DORM !
MISS CURLY LOCKS COULD TAKE MORE CARE...
2-30
SOMETIMES I THINK THAT MAKEUP IS ALL THAT JEANNIE CAN HANDLE IN THIS WORLD...OH, NO!
GODDAMNIT! SHE EVEN THREW THE NEWSPAPER IN THE TUB !
WELL, WELL... JUST WHAT I NEED...THIS COULD BE INTERESTING!
CAN WE HAVE A LOOK, TOO ? OBVIOUSLY NOT!
BUT ANYWAY, YOU MUST ADMIT IT WOULD BE PRETTY TOUGH TRYING TO LEAP FROM ONE ROOF TO THE OTHER...
...WITH A NEWSPAPER TUCKED BENEATH YOUR ARMS...
THE ONCE-QUIET BIOLOGY STUDENT NOW GRACIOUSLY MAKES IT FROM ONE BUILDING TO THE NEXT...
UNAWARE OF WHO SHE REALLY IS, OF HER NEW CAT PERSONALITY, BUT IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT SHE'S UP TO !
THE GREY INSTITUTE... I HOPE IT WASN'T A TYPING ERROR!
8.

IT'S NOT! BESIDES, IT SEEMS OTHERS HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE SAME SUBJECT. WHO? WELL, WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DAILY LOUDSPEAKER

A NEW TRIUMPH FOR GREY INSTITUTE

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT P. FIREBALL

DR. MALCOLM GREY, THE FAMOUS BALLISTICS EXPERT, HAS DISCLOSED YESTERDAY AT THE ANNUAL GREY INSTITUTE SEMINAR HIS LATEST DISCOVERY. A GIANT LEAD IN THE FIELD OF HYDRODYNAMICS

WHAT? THE GREY INSTITUTE IS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE *MILITARY*!!?

CAROL CONOR, YOU'RE *SO* STUPID! OF COURSE IT IS! IT'S A VERY *VALUABLE* DISCOVERY, ISN'T IT?

MILITARY AREA

I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER IF THIS IS A *WISE* THING TO DO...

ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS *DISCOVERY* IS SOMETHING I NEED VERY BADLY..

SO, LET IT BE! BESIDES, I'M SURE THEY'D *REFUSE* IF I ASKED THEM GENTLY!

THESE GUARDS ARE PREPARED FOR MORE THAN THE ORDINARY CRIMINAL...

...BUT NOT FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN SNEAK IN LIKE A CAT!

AND THAT'S ME! I DON'T EVEN NEED A FLASHLIGHT!

LUCKILY, I HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF DIRECTION!

AND I'M GOOD AT FINDING THESE SHORT CUTS...

YES, CAROL, BUT WHAT YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT IS BEING CAREFUL!

IF LOGIC HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT, THIS DISCOVERY'S GOT TO BE IN THE SAFE!
AND THE SAFE IS USUALLY IN A ROOM WITH A "NO ENTRY" SIGN ON THE DOOR! AND HERE'S ONE OF THOSE...
HM... A COMPUTER-CONTROLLED SAFE! TAKES ME BACK TO COLLEGE, THIS!
SIX BILLION COMBINATIONS... A TRIFLE!
WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO AND THAT'S...
WAIT A MINUTE, CAROL! SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE!!
OF COURSE IT IS! FOR BY NOW IT'S MORE THAN OBVIOUS THAT...
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
GRRRGH... WHAT'S THIS, THEN?!!
!?!!
I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE INTERESTED IN THE CONTENTS OF THAT SAFE!
WELL, APPARENTLY NOT! UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S TIME TO PART COMPANY... BUT THIS MOST CERTAINLY WILL BE CONTINUED...
KERRAG
40

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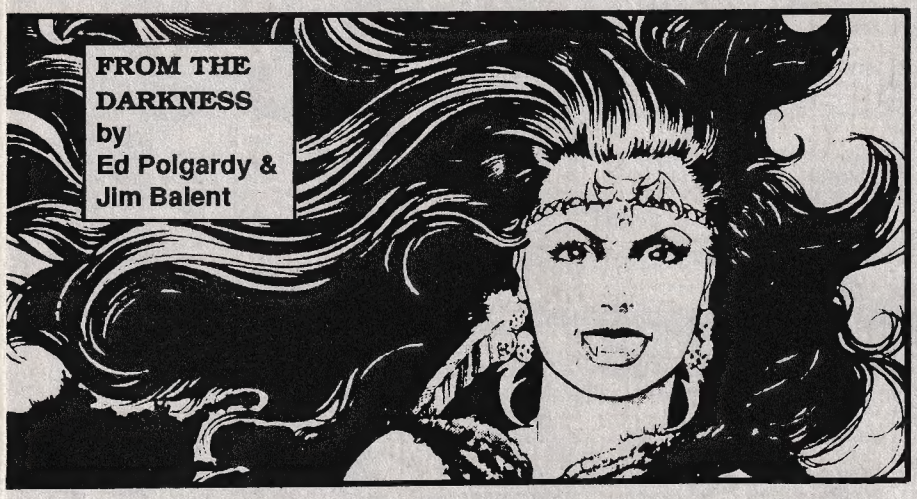
OCTOBER 1990 • ADVENTURE • AIRCEL • ETERNITY

Adventure Releases

• From The Darkness #1

From the darkness of Hell comes a terror too horrible to imagine! Writer Ed Polgardy has spun a monsterful tale about a race of insatiable blood thirsty vampires who will destroy anything, or *anyone* that gets in their way. The object of their fury is Vietnam veteran Ray Thorn, who was forced to kill his twin brother, the vampire queen's lover. Ray wants only to bury his brother and make sure he *stays* buried, but the denizens of Hades are pursuing him across the countryside, bent on making sure that Ray fails *and* dies! Jim Balent's spine-tingling art makes this one of the scariest new vampire thrillers out for this Halloween.



Aircel Releases

• The Cat & Mouse Collection

Collects First Four Out Of Print Issues!

It's official, the first four issues of *Cat & Mouse* are out of print! What? You didn't get yours? Well, as interest in this best-selling and critically acclaimed series has actually increased, we knew there would be people out there who would want to see the early back issues...So, *voila*! *The Cat & Mouse Collection*. This collection brings together the first four ground-breaking issues, complete with a 5-page introductory story that was previously used for promotional purposes only. Included is a new introduction by *C&M* writer Roland Mann on the creation of the series and the long road to success. There's also a special peek into artist Mitch Byrd's *Cat & Mouse* sketchbook. You've had fair warning now, there's no excuse if you miss out again!

• Elflord Chronicles #1

A Ten-Year Anniversary Collector's Series

Come and join us in celebrating ten years of Barry Blair's *Elflord* with this 12-issue collector's series! A must-have collectible for fans, these stories were independently published by Blair in 1980 and received limited Canadian distribution of less than 200 copies per issue. The first issue contains the first two *Elflord* stories ever: "Elflord" and "Night Of The Dragon." In addition, Blair provides historical notes for each issue along with new covers and pin-ups. See how it all started!

Eternity Releases

• Metal Bikini #1

From* Robotech II: The Sentinels *Artist Jason Waltrip

Already a demonstrated master of manga and "good girl" art, Jason Waltrip has created *Metal Bikini*, an all new adventure of a girl, a boy and an experimental suit of armor! Designed by the brilliant professor Kurosawa, the "Metal Bikini" is a new super weapon developed for the armed forces. The wearer of the top secret body armor has full control over its incredible arsenal of weaponry and flight capabilities. It is by far the most awesome war machine modern technology could create, and all too many evil hands are itching to possess it. But only one person is destined to wear this powerful piece of multi-million dollar equipment—Professor Kurosawa's beautiful teen-aged niece Kenji! Written and illustrated by Waltrip, no decent *Robotech* fan could even *think* about passing this one up!

• Polly & Her Pals #1

The Original Strips From 1927

The classic comic strip by Cliff Sterrett begins a five-issue run that will publish the entire year of daily strips from 1927. If you've never seen the definitive art of Sterrett, now's your opportunity to view and collect the series that "incorporates elements of cubism, surrealism and even Dadaism," (Bill Blackbeard, comics historian). An historical look at the uniqueness of Sterrett's work that has rarely been equalled, *Polly & Her Pals* is more than excellent art, it's also got a wonderfully humorous cast who manage to find themselves in the most unpredictable circumstances! And because we're so proud to bring this classic series to you, *Polly & Her Pals* #2 will also be out this month.

--Mickie

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Bodyguard

BY DAVID DE VRIES AND GLEN LUMSDEN

Australia's most widely read comic adventures

BULLSHIT, MATE!
"THE SOUTHERN SQUADRON'S" AUSSIE'S TOP SELLING ACTION-ADVENTURE COMIC... WE SHIT IT IN OVER ANY OF THE SEPO IMPORTS...
THAT'S GOTTA MAKE THE SQUADRON NUMERO UNO!
PIG'S BUM!!
AUSSIE PENTHOUSE'S SALES CREAM ANY COMICS ANYWHERE ANYTIME!
AND THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND "BODYGUARD"!
FACE IT, MATE, MOST BLOKES'D RATHER LOOK AT SEXY SHIELAS THAN SOME POOFTA IN A MASK AN' A PAIR OF LONG JOHNS!
YEAH?! WELL IN OUR MAG THEY CAN SEE BOTH!!
G'ARN THEN, PROVE IT!

Prove it for yourself!

Here's a story to titillate your tastebuds, starring...

AUSTRALIA'S OWN SUPER TROUBLE SHOOTERS!

The Southern SQUADRON

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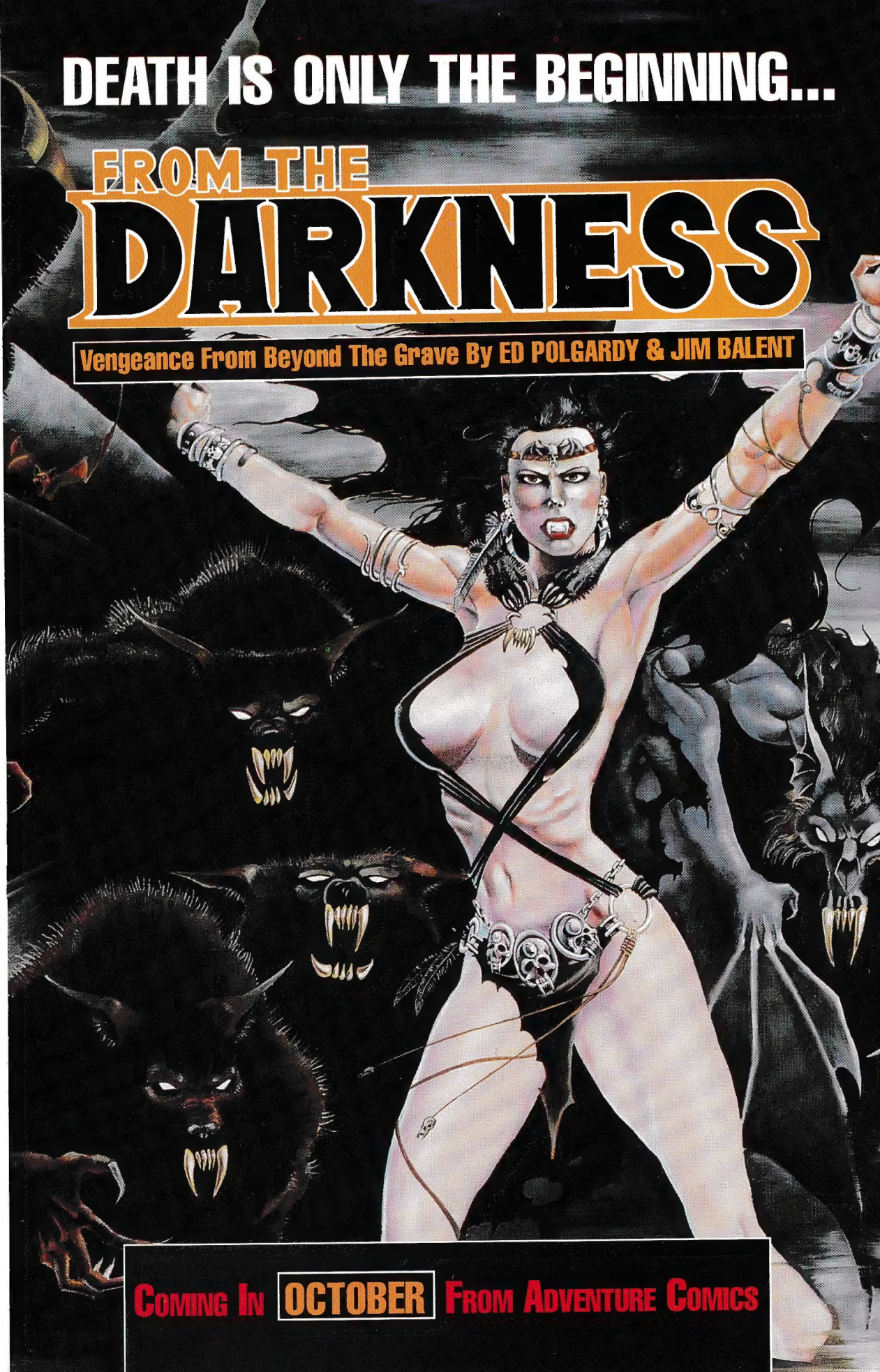
DEATH IS ONLY THE BEGINNING...
FROM THE
DARKNESS
Vengeance From Beyond The Grave By ED POLGARDY & JIM BALENT
COMING IN OCTOBER FROM ADVENTURE COMICS